



## Carly Patterson Biography

**Carly Rae Patterson** (born February 4, 1988 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana) is an American gymnast and Olympic Gold Medalist.

At the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Carly competed as an all-around gymnast and delivered outstanding performances. Carly won the All-Around gold medal, an achievement that had only been attained by one other American gymnast, Mary Lou Retton, exactly twenty years before during the 1984 summer games. Carly became the first American woman to ever win the Olympic All-Around title in a fully attended Olympic Games. As a proud American, winning the Olympic gold medal for her country is an experience Carly will always cherish. She is thrilled to have been able to show her patriotism by representing her country so strongly in the games.

Carly has made numerous guest appearances since the Athens games. Although some hoped that she would return to full-time training to defend her all-around gold, Carly decided in 2006 she would not plan to participate in the 2008 Olympic Games and would retire from Gymnastics to pursue her passion for singing.

On August 29, 2006, Carly launched her singing career with an appearance on the show *Celebrity Duets*. The program was a reality show executive produced by *Simon Cowell* of *American Idol* fame. In the show, celebrities not known for singing were teamed up with professional singers, Carly sang a duet with *Jesse McCartney*. Carly, who always had a passion for music, was never able to carry out her dream because of the demands of her gymnastics career. She has stated on interviews with *Good Morning America NOW* that she believes her singing ability comes from her father, who was a singer and a musician.

On February 4, 2008, Carly signed a recording contract with MusicMind Records, a Chicago based indie label. Her debut album, "Back to the Beginning" was released in summer 2009. The album is a blend of pop and rock with a touch of country for flavor. A deluxe version was released in January 2010 that includes Carly's hit song "Here I Am" The song is currently being used by *ABC Family* in its television promos for the popular series "Make it or Break It."

Carly's passions also include charity work. One of her favorite organizations is the *Special Olympics*. Being an Olympian herself, Carly enjoys supporting this organization year round. Her other charity work includes, the *Tooth Fairy Foundation*, *KISS FM's Hurricane Katrina Relief*, *Red Dress for Heart Disease*, *Habitat for Humanity* and the *Children's Miracle Network*.

Carly still dazzles sold out audiences, performing at the arenas where she originally won fans as a gymnast. She still supports American gymnastics and regularly can be seen at gymnastics events, now inspiring the future gymnasts of her country with her music.

# Carly Patterson

## Back to the Beginning

After retiring from gymnastics in 2006, Carly launched her singing career with an appearance on the show *Celebrity Duets*, executive produced by *Simon Cowell*. She sang a duet with *Jesse McCartney* and realized her passion and talent for singing.

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Her first album "Back to the Beginning" was released in summer 2009.

A deluxe version of her album was released in January 2010 that includes Carly's hit song "Here I Am" The song is currently being used by ABC Family in its television promos for the popular series "Make it or Break it."

The album is a blend of pop and rock with a touch of country for "flavor". Her crisp vocals and country undertones create a voice that is unlike others. The guitar riffs give her songs "The Chase" and "Temporary Life" a twang that is surprising to the listener and will keep you wanting more.

Her lyrics are inspiring and true to the heart. They capture Carly as an individual and in turn connect to the listener as well.

With a Taylor Swift meets Ashlee Simpson sound, Carly Patterson is the new All- American artist who is racing up the charts.



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### Track List:

1. Step Away
2. Time to Wake Up
3. Temporary Life
4. Get to Know Me
5. The Chase
6. Tears
7. Lost in Me
8. Back to the Beginning
9. Gone
10. Forever's Come and Gone
11. Here I Am
12. The Chase "High Octane Mix"

"Olympic medalist Carly Patterson is the featured recording artist in a "Make It or Break It" promo. And she totally nails it! We are so star-struck by the amazing Carly. She's one of the greatest gymnasts. Ever. "  
-ABC Family, *Carly Patterson From Gold Medals to Gold Albums?* (Dec 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

"Carly Patterson is not just an Olympic gold medal gymnast, she's also a singer-songwriter, which made her latest single, 'Here I Am,' a perfect fit for Make It Or Break It. "

-JSYK, *Exclusive listen to Carly Patterson's Song for 'Make it or Break It'* (Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009)

"Gymnast Carly Patterson can sing "  
- *Just Jared Jr.* (Sep 01, 2009)